AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (*Currently Amended*) A method of detecting switching subnodes in a monoblock wavelength division multiplex optical switching node~~network~~, each subnode corresponding to a given level of granularity and to a given switching function, wherein the ~~which~~ method comprises ~~includes~~ the following steps:

(a) collecting information concerning how traffic is crossing an ~~the~~ initial monoblock switching node;

(b) defining the granularity and switching function of the subnodes to be detected;

(c) considering each subnode successively in an order corresponding to reducing switching constraints; and

(d) for each subnode, selecting all or part of the traffic of an incoming granularity and an outgoing granularity that satisfy the switching constraints of the subnode concerned.

2. (*Original*) The method claimed in claim 1 wherein said information collected in step (a) is information contained in the initial switching matrix of the monoblock node whose subnodes are to be detected.

3. (*Currently Amended*) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein step (b) detects successively:

(b1) the fiber level optical switching subnode;

(b2) the band level optical switching network with a direct routing function[[,]] without i.e. with no band translation;

(b3) the band level optical switching subnode with subband translation;

(b4) the subband level optical switching subnode with a direct routing function[[,]] without i.e. with no subband translation;

(b5) the subband level optical switching subnode with subband translation;

(b6) the wavelength level optical switching subnode with a direct routing function[[,]] without i.e. with no wavelength translation; and

(b7) the wavelength level optical switching subnode with wavelength translation.

4. (*Currently Amended*) The method claimed in claim 3, wherein the method including further comprises detecting:

(b8) the subnode corresponding to an insert/extract multiplexer with a direct routing function[[,]] without i.e. with no wavelength translation; and

(b9) the subnode corresponding to an insert/extract multiplexer with wavelength translation.

5. (*Currently Amended*) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein step (d) <u>comprises</u> ~~includes~~ the following substeps:

(d1) marking all of the traffic of the incoming granularity as coming from the subnode concerned and all the traffic of the outgoing granularity as going to the subnode concerned;

(d2) marking the traffic that satisfies the switching constraints of the subnode concerned as belonging to that subnode; and

(d3) increasing the number of ports of the subnode concerned.

6. (*Original*) The method claimed in claim 3 wherein steps (b2), (b4), (b6) and (b8) use a ricochet function for verifying the link with a conversion on any incoming granularity that may be switched in a routing subnode to prevent all internal traffic between subnodes having the same level of granularity.

7. (*Currently Amended*) The method claimed in claim 6, wherein the ricochet function for verifying the link with a conversion <u>comprises</u> ~~includes~~ the following looped steps:

(i) verifying that none of the wavelengths of the incoming granularity is linked with a translation;

(j) verifying that none of the wavelengths of the outgoing granularity or granularities corresponding to the incoming granularity is linked with a translation;

(k) marking the wavelengths verified to prevent looping; and

(l) for each outgoing granularity, applying the function for verifying the link with a

conversion again to all of the wavelengths constituting the incoming granularity of the

wavelengths constituting the outgoing granularity.